



Eradicating global poverty is not a task of the charity, it is an act of justice that should concern everyone as it is the key to unlocking enormous human potential.

Poverty is more than just the lack of income and extreme financial struggle—defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day; it fundamentally means not having the capability to realise one's potential. Hence, ending poverty must tackle the broader dimensions of poverty which is facing over 700 million people, or 10% of the world population, facing barriers such as limited access to education, poor health care, and social discrimination. These challenges are critical in struggling to fulfill the most basic needs like health, education, and access to water and sanitation. Addressing social inequalities and ensuring social protection for the vulnerable are crucial steps toward eradicating poverty in all its forms, one of the greatest challenges facing humanity.

How can we, as a community, leverage local resources and community initiatives to reduce social inequalities and create a more equitable society where poverty is significantly reduced?



Co-funded by
the European Union





Economic growth must be inclusive to provide sustainable jobs and promote equality, as eradicating poverty boosts economic potential and drives progress.

Simply increasing the number of jobs is not enough; those jobs must offer fair wages and decent working conditions to truly reduce inequality. The

International Labour Organisation's 2024 report highlights that while global unemployment has decreased to 5.1%, around 2 billion people remain in informal employment, where they lack job security and fair compensation. Despite a 2.2% rise in global employment in 2023, productivity has not kept up, making it difficult for wages to improve. To ensure economic growth benefits everyone, it is essential to focus on creating high-quality jobs that lift people out of poverty and contribute to a more stable and equitable economy.

How can job creation contribute to sustainable poverty eradication, and what are the most effective measures to improve financial inclusion in impoverished regions to support this process?



Co-funded by
the European Union

2





Many people rely on natural resources to maintain their livelihood, therefore, it is crucial to ensure sustainable management of these resources and to prevent land degradation.

With the climate changing so fast, the most vulnerable are the indigenous people who rely heavily on the natural resources to maintain their livelihood, for example, through fishing, hunting, cultivating crops. At least a quarter of the world's land area is owned, managed, used or occupied by indigenous peoples and environmental degradation significantly threatens their lives, survival, and health conditions. Sustainable management of natural resources is crucial to ensure that indigenous people can maintain their livelihood, moreover their traditional knowledge and agricultural practices can contribute to the preservation of such resources. However, they are often excluded from the decision-making processes and cannot advocate for their rights.

What policies could be implemented to ensure that indigenous peoples are included in the decision-making processes and the management of natural resources and ecosystems?





Despite abundant resources, unequal access and inefficiency lead to widespread malnutrition which makes hunger the world's top killer. Sustainable farming, modern technologies, and fair distribution are key to end hunger for all!

Nearly one-third of food goes to waste globally, as by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in 2021. The FAO's Food Loss Index in 2021 shows close to 14% of food undergoes loss after harvesting and before reaching the retail outlets. In the European Union, the yearly food waste is an alarming 59 million tonnes, translating to 131 kg per person. This wasted food has a market value of around 132 billion euros, as per 2022 Eurostat data. Eurostat also approximates that up to 10% of food available to consumers in the EU might end up as waste. Meanwhile, 32.6 million individuals in the EU face challenges in affording a decent meal every alternate day, as reported in 2021. The UNEP Food Waste Index of 2021 highlights that in 2019, about 931 million tonnes of food were wasted.

What initiatives could be implemented in schools to educate and involve students in the fight against hunger and malnutrition? And how could tackling obesity disorder and increased overweight issues help in this initiative?



Co-funded by
the European Union





Investing in small-scale farmers and improving market access can enhance food security and stimulate economic growth in rural communities, leading to sustainable development.

Small-scale farmers are essential to global food production, contributing about 35% of the world's food while working only 12% of all agricultural land.

However, they often face challenges like limited resources and poor market access. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, improving market access and investing in these farmers could boost their incomes by up to 20%. This not only enhances food security but also drives economic growth in rural communities. By supporting small-scale farmers, we can increase productivity, reduce poverty, and promote sustainable economic development.

How can improving access to resources and knowledge for small-scale food producers, combined with strategies to enhance market access for smallholder farmers, help eradicate hunger?



Co-funded by
the European Union

5





Agriculture places a serious burden on the environment in the process of providing people with food and fibres, leading to soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and air pollution.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, agriculture is the largest consumer of water and the main source of nitrate pollution of groundwater and surface water, as well as the principal source of ammonia pollution. It is a major contributor to the phosphate pollution of waterways and to the release of the powerful greenhouse gases methane and nitrous oxide into the atmosphere. In turn, agriculture and food systems also deliver important benefits to people and the environment, including through the accumulation of CO₂ as carbon in vegetation and soils, conserving semi-natural habitats and wildlife species, and more efficient technologies, social innovations, and circular economy practices. Sustainable agricultural practices are crucial to ensure that no one in the world suffer from hunger.

How can we balance the need for agricultural productivity with the necessity to mitigate the environmental impact? What can we do on a local and regional level to mitigate the environmental impact of agriculture?



Co-funded by
the European Union

6





Supporting healthy living for individuals of all ages.
Striving to provide comprehensive health care and
supporting mental and physical wellness universally.
Fostering health equity across all stages of life.

Good health is the foundation for community development and well-being. Yet, millions lack access to basic health care, essential medicines, and vaccinations, contributing to approximately 16 000 children dying every day before reaching their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes. Social factors such as poverty, education level, and living conditions significantly influence individuals' health outcomes. The global maternal mortality ratio's decline by 38% between 2000 and 2017 showcases some progress, yet disparities remain. Integrating health services with strategies targeting social determinants of health can lead to more sustainable health outcomes. Strengthening health systems globally, particularly in resource-limited settings, is crucial for expanding access to health services.

How can young people contribute to promoting health and well-being within their communities and what are the foundational prerequisites for sustainable wellbeing? And how can new innovations help such efforts?



Co-funded by
the European Union





A healthy population drives economic productivity, as improving access to healthcare reduces economic burdens from diseases and promotes workforce efficiency.

The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights that investing in universal health coverage brings substantial economic benefits, with every dollar spent potentially returning up to \$4 by boosting productivity and cutting healthcare costs. Poor health is a major drain on the global economy, costing about \$3 trillion each year in lost productivity. By making sure everyone has access to quality healthcare and supporting both mental and physical wellness, we can create a healthier workforce. This not only improves people's lives but also fuels economic growth, reduces long-term costs, and strengthens economies around the world.

How can global health challenges be addressed and what strategies can improve access to essential health services for all populations while considering the economic sustainability of healthcare?



Co-funded by
the European Union





Healthy ecosystems are fundamental to sustaining human health, as they provide clean air, fresh water, and medicinal resources. The degradation of these ecosystems can exacerbate health challenges and limit the availability of natural resources.

Pollution, a major environmental health hazard, contributes to a range of diseases, including respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, and cancers. Climate change also affects health by expanding the geographic range of diseases like malaria and dengue fever due to rising global temperatures. Preserving biodiversity is crucial for medical research as many pharmaceuticals are derived from natural compounds. Sustainable agriculture practices ensure food security, reduce exposure to harmful chemicals, and improve food quality, essential for preventing diseases. Enforcing environmental regulations and promoting green urban spaces can mitigate health risks by reducing pollution and enhancing urban livability.

How can youth engage or advocate for policies that protect and enhance the natural environment to support public health? What are some community-level projects that youth can initiate to promote environmental health?



Co-funded by
the European Union





Providing accessible, inclusive, high-quality education for everyone, supporting life-long & life-wide learning opportunities and empowering individuals to achieve their full potential as active citizens.

Despite advancements, more than 260 million children, including a disproportionate number of girls, were out of school in 2018, and more than half of all children and adolescents worldwide are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics. Also, in 2013, there were still 757 million adults unable to read and write, of whom two-thirds were women. Disparities in education access continue to be stark, with children from the poorest households being substantially more likely to be out of school compared to those from the wealthiest. Moreover, the educational attainment of a household head significantly influenced children's likelihood of attending school, underscoring the complex interplay between poverty, gender, and educational opportunity.

How can youth work and non-formal education programs be leveraged to enhance access to quality education and promote transversal skills development, especially for marginalised and underserved communities?



Co-funded by
the European Union

10





Quality education is a cornerstone of economic development, as it equips individuals with the skills needed to participate in and contribute to a sustainable economy.

In low-income countries, just one additional year of schooling can boost a person's earnings by up to 10%, according to UNESCO. If all students gained basic reading skills, it could lift 171 million people out of poverty, transforming lives and communities. Quality education doesn't just prepare individuals for better jobs—it helps them earn more, support their families, and break the cycle of poverty. It also reduces inequality and builds stronger, more resilient economies. When people have access to education, everyone benefits, as it leads to more stable, prosperous societies where opportunities are shared more widely.

What are the key challenges in providing quality education in developing countries, and how can education systems be aligned with the needs of a sustainable economy to address these issues?



Co-funded by
the European Union





Education for sustainable development is a crucial response to the urgent challenges facing our planet.

Each of us can have a positive impact on the environment, we just need knowledge and awareness.

UNESCO sees education for sustainable development as the key to unlocking progress in all the global development goals. It teaches people to make informed decisions and take action, both individually and collectively, to change society and protect the planet. According to a study carried out by UNESCO, more than half of educational plans and curricula frameworks make no reference to climate change while only 19% speak about biodiversity. The study revealed that 40% of teachers are confident teaching cognitive dimensions of climate change but only 20% can explain well how to take action. Education for sustainable development must be included in curricula because it empowers individuals to live in a way that is good for the environment, thus contributing to solving the crisis.

How can non-formal education be used to inform about the climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable consumption? What initiatives could be introduced in your community to raise awareness of education for sustainable development?



Co-funded by
the European Union

12





Fostering a rights-based environment where women and girls can thrive, contributing fully to their communities and the wider world in an equal manner.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Social norms and inequalities continue to hinder women's and girls' rights, opportunities, and access to services. Less than two-thirds of women in developing regions have access to maternity leave, and women only hold 24% of parliamentary seats worldwide, showcasing the significant gender gap in political empowerment and leadership. Moreover, the gender pay gap remains a pervasive issue globally, with women earning on average only 88 cents for every euro earned by men in 2022, further emphasising economic disparities. The women's gross hourly earnings in comparison with men is even less among immigrant women.

What social cohesion initiatives exist in your community and are working towards women's empowerment and providing equal chances to girls, especially those with migration backgrounds (including refugees & asylum seekers)?



Co-funded by
the European Union

13





Empowering women economically ensures more inclusive and sustainable development, as gender equality leads to higher productivity and economic growth.

If gender parity in the workforce were achieved, global GDP could increase by up to \$13 trillion by 2030, according to the 2024 Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum. Despite some progress, women continue to earn roughly 20% less than men globally and remain significantly underrepresented in leadership roles across various industries. This persistent gap not only limits the economic potential of women but also hampers overall economic growth. Closing the gender gap is more than just a matter of fairness—it's an economic imperative. When women have equal opportunities to participate fully in the workforce, it drives greater innovation, boosts productivity, and strengthens economies, making them more resilient and better equipped to face future challenges.

How can economic empowerment of women contribute to sustainable development, and what measures can be taken to ensure equal pay for equal work to support this empowerment?



Co-funded by
the European Union

14





Women are key agents of change in their communities, often having unique perspective on environmental issues. Promoting their leadership in environmental management and decision-making can lead to positive changes.

The study of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on women's leadership in environmental action shows that the presence of women in political decision-making is linked to more ambitious climate goals and policies. Women on corporate boards consistently prioritise environmental, social and governance issues, including climate and sustainability. In civil society, women around the world create powerful networks to combat environmental degradation and tackle climate-related inequalities. Nonetheless, the women are significantly under-represented in key decision-making positions. Only 26.8% of government ministers responsible for policies on environment and climate change are women.

What initiatives or policies should be introduced to ensure that women are fairly represented in decision-making positions? Are there any initiatives or policies in your country?



Co-funded by
the European Union

15





Working beyond drinking water, sanitation and hygiene to address the quality and sustainability of water resources, which are critical to the survival of people and the planet.

Holistic management of the water cycle means taking into account the level of “water stress”, calculated as the ratio of total fresh water withdrawn by all major sectors to the total renewable freshwater resources in a particular country or region. Currently, water stress affects more than 2 billion people around the globe, a figure that is projected to rise. Globally, 1 in 3 people do not have access to safe drinking water, and 2 out of 5 people do not have a basic hand-washing facility with soap and water. Water stress affects countries on every continent, which hinders the sustainability of natural resources, as well as economic and social development. Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the global population and is projected to rise.

How can youth raise awareness and help build a sustainable mindset to proactively support improvements in water and sanitation services in underserved communities particularly and in the whole society in general?



Co-funded by
the European Union

16





Investing in water and sanitation infrastructure is crucial for public health and economic growth, as it reduces healthcare costs and improves productivity.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) shows that investing in clean water and proper sanitation has a big impact on economic productivity. For every dollar spent, there is a return of up to \$6.80, mainly because people need less healthcare and can work more effectively. Without access to clean water and sanitation, the global economy loses about \$260 billion each year due to illness and lost workdays. When communities have these essential services, people stay healthier, kids can go to school regularly, and local economies thrive. This kind of investment not only improves lives but also fuels sustainable economic growth.

How can improving water infrastructure and sanitation facilities impact public health, and what are the economic benefits of investing in clean water and sanitation?



Co-funded by
the European Union

17





Freshwater ecosystems, such as wetlands, rivers, mangroves and aquifers, are a critical part of the global water cycle – supplying, purifying and protecting freshwater resources.

Mismanagement of water resources together with the climate change pose a significant threat to many ecosystems, undermining their ability to ensure freshwater resources, which in turn has a negative impact on people and natural environments. The world has lost 5250 km² of its mangroves. Surface water bodies, such as lakes, are shrinking or being lost entirely in 364 basins worldwide, where approximately 93.1 million people live. More than 90 out of 185 countries have one or more water-related ecosystem in a state of degradation. Freshwater ecosystems serve every type of human activity, support all life on Earth, and cross national boundaries. Effective coordination to protect and restore these ecosystems means integrating plans across sectors and between governments.

Are there any regulations in your country that protect freshwater ecosystems? What can you do as an individual to help protect these resources?



Co-funded by
the European Union

18





Guaranteeing global access to eco-friendly and affordable energy through promoting sustainable and modern solutions to provide clean energy that supports both growth and environmental protection.

Energy is central to every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. As of the latest data in 2019, an alarming number of 789 million people globally are without access to electricity, with a substantial portion residing in sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting a crucial gap in modern conveniences many take for granted. The transition to sustainable energy solutions presents a path to not only better living conditions but also offers the potential to enhance educational opportunities, reduce social and economic inequalities, and foster substantial economic growth. However, the journey towards this transition is hindered by prevalent energy inefficiency and a heavy dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels, which also contribute to environmental degradation.

How can young people leverage technology and social media to raise awareness about the benefits of clean energy and mobilise their peers towards adopting energy-efficient practices in their daily lives?



Co-funded by
the European Union

19





Transitioning to renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency are vital for economic stability, reducing costs, and ensuring long-term energy security.

Switching to clean, affordable energy is not just good for the planet—it is also a smart economic move. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energy could add up to \$98 trillion to the global economy by 2050. Investing in renewables is a major job creator, with the sector already employing over 12 million people worldwide as of 2022. Beyond job creation, clean energy also reduces long-term energy costs and decreases reliance on fossil fuels, making economies more resilient and sustainable. By embracing modern, eco-friendly energy solutions, we can drive robust economic growth while safeguarding the environment for future generations.

How can increasing the share of renewable energy impact global energy security, and what are the economic benefits of improving energy efficiency?



Co-funded by
the European Union

20





Renewable energy sources, such as hydro-electric dams and wind turbines, produce clean energy; however, their impact on the environment and particularly animals should be considered.

The transition to renewable energy is crucial for lowering carbon emissions but there are several downsides to be taken into account. Biologists in Finland have found that 63% of bird species, 72% of bats and 67% of terrestrial mammals are displaced from areas where turbines are installed. A few studies estimate that between 10 000 to 100 000 birds die annually from wind turbines in the UK. The impact on birds can be decreased by carefully choosing the placement of wind turbines. As regards hydro-electric dams, for all fish species on average, more than one in five fish will die when passing through hydropower plants. There are initiatives to make these dams more fish-friendly.

How can we balance the urgent need for renewable energy with the ecological impact on wildlife? What initiatives could be implemented to mitigate such impact while promoting the production and use of renewable energy?



Co-funded by
the European Union

21





Advancing sustained and inclusive economic growth that ensures full, productive employment and decent work for everyone through meaningful employment and fair work conditions.

Work opportunities are crucial for the welfare of society. However, the global unemployment rate last year was more than 5.1%, with jobless youth being a significant issue as they are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. At the same time, growing inequalities and stagnant productivity continue to be significant causes for concern. Additionally, disposable incomes have declined in the majority of countries following Covid-19 and recent violent conflicts and, generally, the erosion of living standards resulting from inflation is, “unlikely to be compensated quickly”. This is amplified by the rise of artificial intelligence which is reshaping the labour market and is already replacing people at the workplace.

How can emerging innovations such as artificial intelligence create more jobs than what they are eliminating? And how can these be enhanced by green and circular economy to create more sustainable jobs?



Co-funded by
the European Union

22





Promoting sustainable economic growth and decent work for all enhances economic stability and reduces inequalities, fostering a more inclusive economy.

Around 2 billion people worldwide are stuck in informal jobs that offer no social protection, fair wages, or job security, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). These precarious jobs do not just limit individual potential—they also hold back economic growth and widen the gap between rich and poor. When people have access to decent work, with fair pay, safe working conditions, and social benefits, it improves their lives and strengthens the economy as a whole. Secure, decent jobs create more stable and resilient economies, helping to lift people out of poverty and promote greater economic inclusion. By focusing on creating decent work for all, we can build a more equitable and prosperous world.

How can improving resource efficiency contribute to sustainable economic growth, and what are the challenges of decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation?



Co-funded by
the European Union

23





Sustainable tourism or ecotourism promotes the local culture and products, creates new jobs and at the same time helps to conserve the environment.

The World Trade Organisation defines sustainable tourism as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities”. The global sustainable tourism market was valued at \$3.3 trillion in 2022, and is projected to reach \$11.4 trillion by 2032. Global sustainable travel grew by 15% annually from 2016 to 2020. 55% of travellers chose to visit eco-friendly destinations over other alternatives in 2022.

Sustainable tourism initiatives provide livelihoods for over 10 million local residents in ecotourism-rich areas. Younger generations are more environmentally conscious and look for sustainable travel experiences, thus ensuring that sustainable tourism increases every year.

How can tourism industry use the increasing demand for sustainable travel to promote environmental conservation?
Do you have some specific examples from your travel experience?



Co-funded by
the European Union

24





Promoting resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and innovation to foster equal access, social development, and long-term opportunities for all.

Robust infrastructure, innovation, and industry are essential to driving economic growth & development because they offer suitable alternative solutions to social challenges. However, many communities lack access to basic infrastructure and technological resources, widening the digital divide and hindering social and economic inclusion. Infrastructure gaps remain significant, with about 1.2 billion people worldwide lacking electricity and many more without internet access. At the same time, the manufacturing industry's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic remains incomplete and uneven. Global manufacturing growth slowed down to 3.3% in 2022, from 7.4% in 2021. However, medium-high- and high-technology industries demonstrated robust growth rates.

How can inclusive circular economy and innovative industrial concepts such as smart cities and Industrial Parks contribute to a more impactful ecosystem that creates positive change on the social level?



Co-funded by
the European Union

25





Building resilient infrastructure and promoting innovation are key drivers of economic growth, providing the foundation for sustainable industrial development.

Industries and infrastructure are the backbone of economic growth, yet in many developing countries less than 30% of small-scale industries have access to credit, which makes innovation and job creation harder to achieve. According to the United Nations, investing in resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive industrialisation could lift millions out of poverty and create jobs. Additionally, advancements in technology and innovation can empower small businesses to compete in global markets, increasing productivity and boosting local economies. When we support industry, innovation, and infrastructure, we create opportunities for meaningful employment, ensuring that economic growth benefits everyone.

What are the barriers to inclusive industrialisation in developing countries, and how can research and development enhance industrial technologies and innovation to overcome these barriers?



Co-funded by
the European Union

26





Environmental footprint of industrial activities can be reduced through efficient use of resources and introduction of environmentally friendly technologies and industrial processes.

Industries and infrastructure are everywhere – in our homes, roads we use, systems ensuring electricity and plumbing. They improve our quality of life but in some cases they come at a high price. Poorly planned, designed, constructed, and maintained infrastructure can endanger wildlife, wild places, and our communities. According to the World Wildlife Fund, infrastructure can be as simple as choosing the wrong location. Some areas are just too vulnerable or ecologically important to support large infrastructure development, for example, Amazon. It is important to support developments that benefit our environment: renewable energy facilities, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, and high-efficiency and climate-resilient structures that are planned with ecosystems and wildlife habitats in mind.

How can we ensure that industry and infrastructure developments align with the preservation of environment? What criteria should guide the decision-makers to ensure that the needs of people and the environment are balanced?



Co-funded by
the European Union

27





Minimising disparities both within nations and between different countries for a more equitable world by addressing and reducing socio-economic inequalities.

The pandemic's social fallout has not only widened disparities but also exacerbated discrimination, disproportionately impacting women and people with disabilities. In 2022, the world saw a record high in the number of refugees, reaching 34.6 million, alongside nearly 7000 migrant deaths globally, marking it as a particularly deadly year for migrants. Addressing these deepening divides requires a multi-faceted approach that includes equitable resource distribution, investments in education and skill-building, social protection initiatives, anti-discrimination measures, and support for marginalised groups. Furthermore, enhancing international cooperation to ensure fair trade and sustainable social systems is crucial for reducing both within- and between-country inequalities.

How can international programs such as ERASMUS+ mobilities for youth create empowering conditions conducive to social solidarity and harmony between communities without any form of exclusion or bias?



Co-funded by
the European Union

28





Reducing economic inequality fosters social cohesion and economic stability, creating a more resilient and inclusive economy that benefits everyone.

The wealthiest 10% of the global population currently take home 52% of the world's income, while the poorest 50% earn just 8.5%. This stark inequality doesn't just harm those at the bottom; it slows down economic growth for everyone. According to the World Bank, reducing income inequality by just 1% a year could boost economic growth by up to 0.5% annually in developing countries. Addressing these disparities through fairer wage distribution, improved access to education, and better opportunities for all can create more resilient and inclusive economies. When economic benefits are shared more equitably, it leads to stronger, more stable societies where growth benefits everyone, not just a select few.

How can better regulation and monitoring of financial markets reduce economic inequalities, and what are the key challenges in implementing these financial regulations globally?



Co-funded by
the European Union

29





Equal access to resources such as water, provision of equal opportunities to everyone, and sustainable management of such resources can help marginalised communities to improve their quality of life.

Having the same amount of natural resources, the world population grows, standards of living improve, and environmental challenges become more urgent. This leads to conflicts over natural resources. And in this fight the marginalised communities, indigenous people, and people from developing countries are the ones who are most affected by unfair distribution of resources. 80% of the world's resources are consumed by 20% of the world's population. It leads to struggles over resources, many of which escalate into ethnic, national and regional crises. All these consequences of poverty and underdevelopment diminish the human condition and also consequently have a negative impact on the environment because one's primary concern is ensuring basic needs, such as food and clothing.

How can we ensure a more equitable distribution of resources to ensure that marginalised communities, indigenous peoples, and developing countries have access to sustainable development benefits?



Co-funded by
the European Union

30





Transforming cities into spaces that are inclusively designed to ensure safety and resilience for all inhabitants, while also prioritising sustainability to support long-term ecological and social well-being.

More than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, a figure set to rise to 70% by 2050. Today, around 1.1 billion individuals reside in slums or conditions akin to slums, a number expected to grow by 2 billion over the next three decades. As of 2022, only about 50% of urban residents had easy access to public transport. Challenges such as urban sprawl, air pollution, and a scarcity of open public spaces continue to plague cities. Since 2015, there has been a notable increase in countries adopting national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction, with their number doubling. Currently, 85% of slum inhabitants are found in three regions: Central and Southern Asia (359 million), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (306 million), and sub-Saharan Africa (230 million).

What are the advantages and disadvantages between urban and rural areas? And in which of both areas would you personally like to live and why?



Co-funded by
the European Union

31





Sustainable urban development boosts economic growth, as well-planned cities reduce costs and enhance the quality of life, attracting investment and innovation.

With over half of the world's population now living in urban areas, cities are central to economic growth, but they also face challenges like overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, and pollution. The United Nations estimates that investing in sustainable infrastructure in cities could generate up to \$3.7 trillion in economic benefits by 2030. By making cities more sustainable—through better public transportation, energy-efficient buildings, and green spaces—we not only improve quality of life but also boost economic productivity. Sustainable cities create jobs, attract investment, and ensure that growth is both inclusive and resilient, benefiting everyone who lives there.

How can national and regional development planning support sustainable urban growth, and what are the benefits of creating positive ecosystem connections between urban, suburban, and rural areas?



Co-funded by
the European Union

32





Improved waste management systems, green spaces, and the reduction of emissions from transportation improves the air and water quality, benefiting both the residents of the cities and wildlife.

Today, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas and this proportion is expected to increase to 70% by 2050. Cities are a major driver of environmental change. Urban sprawl transforms landscapes, thereby affecting ecosystems and biodiversity. Cities are also a major contributor to climate change, as they are responsible for around 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Urban areas also generate considerable amounts of waste, much of which remains poorly managed and becomes hazardous to people's and ecosystems' health. Air pollution, which is responsible for 9% of deaths worldwide and many health issues, is also a particularly acute problem in cities, due to transportation and production patterns.

If you live in the city, are you satisfied with the waste management system and the quality of air? What could be improved in your city to make it more environmentally friendly?



Co-funded by
the European Union

33





Promoting patterns of consumption and production that uphold sustainability principles to efficiently use resources, minimise environmental impact, and support the wellbeing of current & future generations.

The fast fashion industry is responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions. Fashion accounts for 24% of insecticides and 11% of pesticides and additional water pollution by dumping dyes and chemicals into water systems. Most of this information is hidden from the consumers as most do not know how fashion and the environment are related. The impact of the fashion industry is already being felt on the environment and on the human communities living in the areas where there is industry presence and production is located. It is not only resource-demanding but also a high waste generating sector. As the global population increases so does the demand for clothes. As a result, the material footprint per capita in high-income countries is 10 times the level of low-income countries.

What are our own fashion strategies and habits, and how do we ensure that we are not causing harm to the environment with our clothes, moving towards sustainable lifestyles?



Co-funded by
the European Union

34





Efficient resource management reduces economic costs and environmental impact, promoting sustainable growth and long-term economic stability.

Inefficient use of resources costs the global economy over \$2.5 trillion each year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). When businesses and consumers adopt more sustainable practices—like reducing waste, recycling, and using resources more efficiently—they not only lower their costs but also contribute to broader economic growth. For instance, embracing circular economy principles, where materials are reused and recycled, could add an estimated \$4.5 trillion to the global economy by 2030. These practices help businesses cut expenses, create new markets, and support long-term economic stability. At the same time, they reduce environmental impact, preserving resources for future generations.

How can sustainable management of natural resources reduce future economic costs, and what are the environmental benefits of efficient resource use?



Co-funded by
the European Union

35



Sustainable supply chains, responsible sourcing of materials, reduction of emissions, and sustainability reporting contribute to reducing the ecological footprint of a company.

Sustainability reporting is a form of non-financial reporting that enables companies to convey their progress toward goals on a variety of sustainability parameters, including environmental, social and governance metrics, as well as risks and impacts they may face, at the moment or in the future. Such reporting helps companies to understand their positive or negative impact on the environment and set their priorities accordingly. On 5 January 2023, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive entered into force – it modernises and strengthens the rules concerning the social and environmental information that companies have to report and also determines a broader set of companies that will be required to report on sustainability.

What are your consumption habits and how do they impact the environment? Have you introduced new habits to make your consumption more responsible? How would you advise to raise awareness of responsible consumption?



Co-funded by
the European Union

36





Implementing urgent comprehensive measures to address climate change and mitigate its widespread effects on ecosystems, economies, and communities.

From 2010 to 2020, regions with high vulnerability, where roughly 3.3–3.6 billion people reside, suffered mortality rates from floods, droughts, and storms that were 15 times higher than in areas of very low vulnerability, severely disrupting national economies and impacting lives and livelihoods. To keep global warming to a 1.5°C increase above pre-industrial levels—a critical threshold for mitigating the most severe effects of climate change—emissions should already be on the decline and need to be halved by 2030. However, current efforts are significantly behind this goal, indicating a pressing need to enhance global ambition, extend efforts across entire economies, and shift towards climate-resilient development that includes a definitive strategy for achieving net-zero emissions.

In what innovative and sustainable ways can communities, businesses, and governments collaborate more effectively to accelerate action against climate change and meet global emissions targets?



Co-funded by
the European Union

37





Incorporating climate action into economic planning mitigates risks and drives sustainable growth, ensuring economic resilience in the face of climate change.

The economic impacts of climate change are significant, with extreme weather events alone costing the global economy an estimated \$2.5 trillion over the past decade, according to the World Bank. By integrating climate action into economic planning, countries can mitigate these risks and foster sustainable growth. Investing in renewable energy, for example, could generate \$19 trillion in global economic benefits by 2050 while also creating millions of jobs. Moreover, transitioning to a low-carbon economy can reduce long-term costs associated with climate-related damages and health issues. When economies prioritise climate resilience, they become more adaptable and better equipped to handle future challenges, ensuring that growth is sustainable and benefits everyone.

How can integrating climate change measures into national policies help mitigate global warming, and what are the challenges in mobilising funds for climate action in vulnerable countries?



Co-funded by
the European Union

38





Improving education on and raising awareness of climate change as well as raising the capacity of people and institutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change is crucial to achieve the climate goals.

According to the United Nations, there is a climate cataclysm looming, and we are underprepared for what this could mean. It is important for people to have access to environmental education so they can make informed decisions and advocate for climate action. Awareness of climate change and how it affects the environment can drive initiatives and campaigns at individual, community, and policy level, leading to innovative solutions and achievement of the climate goals. At the moment, much is done in the fields of renewable energy, circular economy, and environment conservation but emphasis should be put on informing people and raising awareness to empower people to take action and implement changes.

Do you think you have enough knowledge and information to make informed decisions and take action in the field of climate? Do you know where to find information as regards climate action?



Co-funded by
the European Union

39





Preserving the oceans, seas, and marine resources through sustainable practices and strategies to support ongoing development.

The Ocean covers 3/4 of the Earth's surface, with 97% of the Earth's water, and representing 99% of the living space on the planet by volume. Also, about 80% of all tourism takes place in coastal areas. The ocean-related tourism industry grows an estimated US\$ 134 billion per year and in some countries, the industry already supports over a third of the labour force. But, marine pollution is reaching extreme levels, with over 17 million metric tons clogging the ocean in 2021, a figure set to triple by 2040. Now, the ocean's average pH (acidity measurement) is 8.1 that is about 30% more acidic than in pre-industrial times. Ocean acidification threatens the survival of marine life, disrupts the food web, and undermines vital services provided by the ocean.

How can global and local initiatives better address the challenges of marine pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction to preserve marine biodiversity?



Co-funded by
the European Union

40





Protecting marine ecosystems is crucial for the economic well-being of communities relying on marine resources, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and food security.

The global ocean economy, which includes fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection, is worth around \$3 trillion annually and supports the livelihoods of over 3 billion people, according to the UN. Overfishing, pollution, and climate change threaten these ecosystems, putting jobs and food security at risk, particularly in coastal communities. Sustainable management of marine resources can increase fish stocks by up to 67%, leading to higher incomes for fishermen and more stable food supplies. Protecting our oceans is not just an environmental necessity; it is essential for sustaining the economies and livelihoods of communities that depend on marine resources.

How does ocean acidification affect marine life and ecosystems, and what are the economic implications for communities relying on marine resources?



Co-funded by
the European Union

41



Protecting and restoring water ecosystems is essential for maintaining biodiversity as they provide habitat for marine life, ensure carbon sequestration as well as are essential for human existence.

Conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources is of great importance. Healthy oceans and seas are essential to human existence and life on Earth. The ocean is our planet's life support and regulates the global climate system. It is the world's largest ecosystem, home to nearly a million known species and containing vast untapped potential for scientific discovery. Despite the critical importance of conserving oceans, decades of irresponsible exploitation have led to an alarming level of degradation. Adequate measures need to be taken immediately to protect and restore the ocean because it is in a state of emergency. This can be achieved through international cooperation to protect vulnerable habitats.

What specific actions can be taken by individuals, communities, and governments to foster international cooperation for protecting vulnerable habitats?



Co-funded by
the European Union

42





Keeping our lands and forests healthy and full of life. Taking good care of our lands and forests, not letting them turn into deserts, stop harming different kinds of animals and plants, and fix damaged places.

The world is facing a triple crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Forests cover 30.7% of the Earth's surface, provide vital habitats for millions of species, and important sources for clean air and water; moreover, they are crucial for combating climate change. Yet, we are losing 10 million hectares of forest each year – about the size of Iceland. Land ecosystems are under threat from deforestation, desertification, and biodiversity loss.

Protecting these natural resources is crucial for humanity's survival and well-being. Sustainable land use, combating desertification, and halting biodiversity loss are essential for ensuring the health of our planet. With over a million species at risk of extinction, efforts to preserve and restore natural habitats are more important than ever.

How can young people and their initiatives and involvement such as volunteering make the community aware of our dependency and interconnectivity with nature and our responsibility towards it to support, repair and maintain?



Co-funded by
the European Union

43





Sustainable land management supports biodiversity and enhances ecosystem services, which are essential for economic development and human well-being.

Forests, which cover about 31% of the world's land area, contribute over \$100 billion per year to the global economy through industries like timber, agriculture, and tourism. They also provide vital ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, water purification, and soil stabilisation, which are crucial for sustaining agriculture and reducing the impact of natural disasters. However, deforestation and land degradation threaten these benefits, costing the global economy an estimated \$6.3 trillion annually. By protecting and restoring land ecosystems, we not only preserve biodiversity but also secure the natural resources that drive economic growth and support livelihoods, particularly in rural and indigenous communities.

How can fair benefit-sharing from genetic resources support biodiversity conservation, and what are the challenges in implementing equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms?



Co-funded by
the European Union

44





Mountain ecosystems and their biodiversities are crucial for climate regulation, water resources, as well as for ensuring the livelihood of the communities living in these ecosystems.

Mountains supply more than half of humankind with water. They are reservoirs for food, energy, and biodiversity. Communities living in mountains have gained experience and can offer solutions to deal with climate variability and harsh environments. In Rio+20 summit, it was recognised that the benefits derived from mountain regions are essential for sustainable development.

The mountains are one of the first indicators of climate change – melting of glaciers and loss of snow cover, affecting not only the mountain but also other territories on earth. Mountain Green Cover Index is an indicator used to measure the changes of the green vegetation in mountain areas in order to monitor the progress as regards the mountain targets.

What strategies or initiatives could be applied to gather knowledge from mountain communities to improve the resilience against climate change? What could be the role of international cooperation?



Co-funded by
the European Union

45





Fostering peaceful, inclusive societies that support sustainable development, ensure justice for everyone, and establish effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Ongoing and new violent conflicts are significantly hindering progress towards a global state of peace.

The situation became increasingly dire, with 2022 marking a staggering increase of over 50% in civilian deaths due to conflict, a surge largely attributed to the war in Ukraine. This escalation in violence has contributed to a record high of 108.4 million people being forcibly displaced by the end of 2022, marking a 19 million increase from the previous year and representing more than double the figure from a decade ago. Additionally, the year 2021 saw the highest number of intentional homicides recorded in the last twenty years, underscoring the global crisis of safety and security. These challenges are compounded by deep-rooted structural injustices and inequalities, alongside human rights issues.

How can non-formal education in youth work through peace education, conflict transformation education and sustainability education help build inclusive societies?



Co-funded by
the European Union

46





Stable and just societies foster economic development by creating environments conducive to investment, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Countries with strong institutions and low levels of corruption attract up to 50% more investment than those with weak governance, according to the World Bank. This investment fuels innovation, job creation, and sustainable growth. Stable and just societies are the foundation for economic prosperity. On the other hand, conflict and instability can devastate economies, with the global cost of violence reaching \$14.4 trillion annually, equivalent to 10.5% of the world's GDP. When societies are peaceful and governed by the rule of law, they provide the security and trust needed for businesses to thrive and for economies to grow. Ensuring justice and strong institutions is not just about fairness—it is essential for creating the conditions that allow economic development to flourish.

How do illicit financial flows impact global security and economic development, and what strategies can enhance the recovery and return of stolen assets?



Co-funded by
the European Union

47





Ensuring access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms according to national and international law is essential for fostering meaningful changes and peaceful societies.

Peace is a precondition for social and economic development, and without it conflicts, violence, and instability arise which in turn have a negative impact on the environment. There are many conflicts in the world now which contribute to the environmental degradation and the consequences will be visible for a long time.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights establishes the requirement to ensure a high level of environmental protection. According to the Office of the United Nations

High Commissioner for Human Rights, the right to a healthy environment includes clean air, safe and stable climate, access to safe water and sanitation, healthy biodiversity and ecosystems. In addition, people are entitled to access information on the state of the environment and to exercise their freedoms, demanding institutions to take action.

How can non-formal education help protect fundamental freedoms? What are the strategies for ensuring access to information?



Co-funded by
the European Union

48





Enhancing the mechanisms for execution and rejuvenating the international collaboration to effectively achieve the set development goals through strengthened global partnerships and resources.

Geopolitical conflicts and a revival of nationalist sentiments are obstructing global collaboration, emphasising the critical need for unified efforts to equip developing nations with essential funding and technological support to expedite SDGs achievement. Moreover, post-COVID-19, developing countries face soaring external debt, exacerbated by unparalleled inflation, increasing interest rates, and competing governmental priorities against a backdrop of limited fiscal space, signalling an immediate demand for debt relief and enhanced financial support. As of 2021, global external debt soared to over \$8 trillion, with more than half of low-income countries in or at high risk of debt distress. This financial strain places additional pressure on their ability to invest in development initiatives.

How can young people help build and strengthen partnerships that promote the SDGs in their communities and beyond to ensure effective partnerships capable of addressing complex challenges of development?



Co-funded by
the European Union

49





Global economic stability and development are enhanced through strong partnerships, policy coherence, and coordinated efforts among nations, ensuring shared progress and prosperity.

Global partnerships are vital for ensuring economic stability and development. International cooperation, particularly in areas like trade, finance, and technology, can significantly enhance global economic growth. For instance, reducing trade barriers and promoting open markets can increase global trade, contributing an additional \$1.1 trillion to the global economy by 2025, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Economic Outlook 2023. Coordinated efforts in areas like tax policy can reduce tax evasion, potentially increasing public revenue by hundreds of billions of dollars, which can be reinvested in development projects. By strengthening these partnerships, we can ensure that economic growth is more inclusive and benefits all nations.

How can global macroeconomic stability contribute to sustainable development, and what are the benefits of policy coordination and coherence among nations?



Co-funded by
the European Union

50





With the globalisation and environmental problems extending beyond the borders of one country, environmental protection requires international cooperation and global partnerships.

The climate change affects all of the world, causing natural disasters and changing the climate. In order to address these issues and find solutions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supports partnerships and networks in order to build a global community of decision makers, advocates, and practitioners who integrate ecosystem management solutions for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development strategies. The UNEP has founded the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction which comprises 23 organisations that promote ecosystem management as a key strategy to enable vulnerable communities and countries reduce disaster risk and build resilience to disasters and climate change.

How can people and communities work together to find solutions to environmental issues? In your opinion, what role can youth play in fostering such international cooperation for the protection of the environment?



Co-funded by
the European Union

51



The SDGs Cards Box Journey

The SDGs Cards Box is an innovative educational material prompting critical discussions around sustainability, encouraging critical thinking, stimulating meaningful conversations, and ultimately driving behavioural changes towards a more sustainable lifestyle among young people and adopting green sustainable lifestyles and living.

There are 51 cards in the SDGs Cards Box which are dedicated to explore the three dimensions – social, economic, and ecological – of all the 17 sustainable development goals. These cards help young people to engage in thoughtful discussions and generate ideas for positive change. You will have the opportunity to learn about various aspects of sustainable development, consider different perspectives, and contribute your own ideas. The aim is to learn, think critically, and work together to create solutions that support a more sustainable and fair world for everyone. Through teamwork and shared understanding, we can inspire and come up with creative approaches to tackling real-world problems.



Co-funded by
the European Union

0-1



Contents of the BOX

The SDGs Cards Box is an innovative educational material built around a set of 51 cards that focuses on the economic, social, and ecological dimensions of sustainable development goals. The cards on SDGs form the core of the SDGs Cards Box and are designed to understand and solve real-world challenges.

There are also three types of additional cards:

- 1) **Resource Cards** – they provide background information to help you learn more about the SDGs;
- 2) **Solution Cards** – they offer different methods and techniques that can be used together with the SDG cards to enhance the learning experience;
- 3) **Overview Cards** – like this one, they explain how to use the cards.

Start by exploring the SDG cards, and use the additional cards to enhance your understanding and discussions. The overall goal is to build a strong foundation of knowledge and work towards creating practical solutions that make a real difference.



Co-funded by
the European Union

0-2



Layout of the SDG cards

There are 51 cards dedicated to the three dimensions of 17 SDGs. Each of these cards has the same layout.

- On the top left corner there is an indication to the dimension of the card – social, economic, and environmental.
- Next to the dimension you can see the number, title, and icon of the specific SDG.
- Each of the 17 goals has a specific colour, and the card on the specific goal is in the same colour as used by the UN.
- On the top right corner there is a box with a statement.
- The middle part of the card is dedicated to some facts and figures to better understand the goal.
- Below the middle part there is a box with one or several questions to initiate discussions.
- On the bottom left corner there is an Erasmus+ logo.
- Next to it, there is a card number.
- On the bottom right corner there is a QR code where more information on the specific SDG can be found.
- And next to it there is a logo of the project.



Layout of the Additional Cards

There are 19 additional cards: 5 overview cards, 7 resource cards, and 9 solutions cards. These cards have a similar layout.

- On the top left corner there is an indication to the type of the card – overview, resource, and solution.
- On the top there is a box with a title of the relevant card.
- The middle part of the card provides useful information – additional information, explanations, instructions.
- On the bottom left corner there is an Erasmus+ logo.
- Next to it, there is a card number.
- In the resource cards, next to the card number there is a QR code which brings to a website where more information can be accessed on the specific topic. This part provides the opportunity to deepen the understanding of the subject.
- On the bottom right corner there is a logo of the project.



Solution Cards

Finding good solutions to the questions posed in the SDG cards takes creativity, patience, and teamwork. One has to think about how realistic the ideas are and how they can be put into action in real life. The goal is to come up with solutions that are creative and possible, making a real difference in your community or the world.

Solution Cards contain several methods and techniques, for example, World Cafe, Mind Mapping, Challenge Mapping, SWOT analysis, that can be used to achieve specific objectives – either to encourage individual work of participants or to help brainstorm and work together. Each solution method or technique is made to spark different kinds of ideas and help you look at the same question or problem from various perspectives.

The provided Solutions Cards offer a small explanation of the method or technique and then provides instructions for carrying out a specific activity. This part offers valuable information to the facilitator on the number of participants, their division, and any necessary materials.



Co-funded by
the European Union

0-5



What are the SDGs?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as Global Goals, are 17 global goals established by the United Nations (193 countries) to address the world's most pressing challenges, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water, affordable energy, climate action, and more.

Adopted in 2015, the SDGs set a target to achieve these ambitious goals by 2030, calling for global cooperation across governments, businesses, and individuals. The SDGs are designed to leave no one behind, aiming to create a future that is equitable, sustainable, and prosperous for all.

The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Each goal comes with specific targets and indicators to measure progress. There are 169 targets divided among all 17 SDGs. In addition, there are specific events, such as forums, conferences, expert group meetings and others, for each goal to assess the progress and perform an in-depth review of goals.



Co-funded by
the European Union

R-1



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (1)

1

NO POVERTY



No poverty - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

2

ZERO HUNGER



Zero Hunger - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Good Health and well-being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

4

QUALITY EDUCATION



Quality education - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

5

GENDER EQUALITY



Gender equality - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Clean water and sanitation - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Affordable and clean energy - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Decent work and economic growth - Promote inclusive and economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Industry, Innovation and infrastructure - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation



Co-funded by
the European Union

R-2



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (2)

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduced inequalities - Reduce inequality within and among countries

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Sustainable cities and communities - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Responsible consumption and production - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Climate change - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Life below water - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

15 LIFE ON LAND



Life on land - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, halt land degradation and biodiversity loss

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Peace, justice and strong institutions - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Partnership for the goals - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Co-funded by
the European Union

R-3



History of SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals evolved from the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were created in 2000. The 8 MDGs were: 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2) Achieve universal primary education; 3) Promote gender equality and empower women; 4) Reduce child mortality; 5) Improve maternal health; 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; 7) Ensure environmental sustainability; and 8) Global partnership for development.

The MDGs helped make significant progress, lifting millions out of poverty and improving access to education and healthcare. However, the MDGs had their limitations—they focused mostly on developing countries and did not address environmental sustainability comprehensively. In 2015, the United Nations launched the SDGs, building on the successes of the MDGs while broadening the scope to address environmental sustainability, inequality, and more comprehensive development. The SDGs are a global call to action, urging all countries to work together towards a better, more sustainable future.



Co-funded by
the European Union

R-4



Progress on the SDGs

Since their adoption in 2015, the world has made notable progress towards achieving the SDGs, with improvements in areas such as poverty reduction, increased access to education, and better health outcomes. For example, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has decreased, and access to clean water has improved for millions.

However, challenges remain, especially in combating climate change, achieving gender equality, and reducing inequalities. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down progress in many areas, highlighting the need for resilience and increased investment in sustainable development.

Each year, the United Nations publishes the Sustainable Development Goals Report which provides the assessment of the SDGs based on the latest data and estimates. The reports usually cover the current events of the world and their impact on the SDGs as well as point out areas that need urgent actions to rescue the SDGs and deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030.



Co-funded by
the European Union

R-5



Global Importance of SDGs

SDGs are vital for ensuring a sustainable future for everyone, addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. The goals emphasise interconnectedness—progress in one goal often drives progress in others. For example, improving education (Goal 4) can lead to better economic opportunities (Goal 8), which helps reduce poverty (Goal 1). Achieving the SDGs requires collaboration between governments, the private sector, and civil society to create an inclusive, fair, and sustainable world. The SDGs provide a roadmap for global action that encourages individuals, organisations, and governments to work towards common goals for a better future.

It is important to know what is the goal to be achieved; however, it is no less important to celebrate what has been achieved so far. For example, although much is yet to be done for Goal 5, it is important to celebrate the progress – 10 countries elected women as a head of state for the first time, there were achievements in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights such as banning child marriages, decriminalising abortion.



Co-funded by
the European Union

R-6



SDG Actions Platform

The SDG Actions Platform is a global registry of voluntary policies, commitments, multi-stakeholder partnerships and other initiatives made by governments, the UN system and a broad range of stakeholders to support acceleration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Governments and other actors are encouraged to register their policies, initiatives or commitments that accelerate the implementation of one or multiple SDGs on the platform by filling out a form that seeks detailed information about each policy/initiative, including details of implementation, beneficiaries, budget and resources, timeline and evaluation.

This is a very useful platform because you can not only register your initiative but also browse initiatives by goals. For example, you want to do more in terms of responsible consumption (Goal 12) and there are more than 1000 entries for this goal – educational initiatives, responsible entrepreneurs, eco fashion week, and other events where you can either participate or gain some information and motivation to act.



Co-funded by
the European Union

R-7



World Café

The World Café method can be used for hosting a large group dialogue. This activity can be modified to meet different needs but the following 5 components are the basis of this activity.

1. *Setting*: Create an environment that looks like a Café, for example, a round table with a tablecloth, some flowers on it, block of paper, and some coloured pens. There should be 4 chairs at each table (maximum 5).
2. *Welcome and introduction*: Welcome the participants and explain the concept of the World Café and share (or alternatively create together) the Café Etiquette (being respectful, expressing your opinion, listening to others, engaging in conversation and other rules you consider necessary for your group). Explain that during this activity they will use the SDGs Cards Box which is a set of 51 questions on the three dimensions of each SDG goal. Each card contains a statement, an explanation with some facts and figures, and a question to initiate a group discussion.
3. *Small-group rounds*: Divide the participants into groups of 4 (maximum 5) people and seat them around tables. Inform them that they will receive one card per table and that they will have 20 minutes for discussions. When the time is up, each participant changes tables. (If deemed necessary by the facilitator, one participant may remain at the table as the 'table host' for the next round.) Explain that there will be three (or more as needed) rounds.
4. *Questions*: In each round, choose the SDG cards and put one on each table. Choose the SDG goal and dimension according to the desired topic and the objectives you want to achieve. You can use the same card in several rounds or you can choose the cards so that they build upon each other to guide the discussions in the desired direction.
5. *Harvest*: After the small-group rounds (or in-between rounds, as needed) ask the participants to share their insights, conclusions from their discussion on paper. In the end, ask the participants to share their conclusions with the rest of the larger group.



Role Playing

One and the same question has a different answer, depending on who's answering it. The SDG Intelligence Box cards contain 51 questions which can be used to initiate discussions and better understand various perspectives. To organise this activity, you will need to prepare the following:

- Determine 5 roles – youth, policy maker, government, environmental organisation, business owner. (You can also decide on other roles, depending on the target group and objective of the activity)
- Print out the roles and a short description for each.
- Choose the SDG Intelligence Box cards you would like to use – it can be the same card for each group or different cards.

Activity

1. Divide the group into groups of five and make them sit around a table.
2. Assign roles to the participants – you can either assign them the roles or allow them to choose.
3. Explain that there is one card on the table containing the statement, some facts about it and a question. Participants will have to read the whole card and respond to the question based on the role they have been assigned.
4. Each role will have one minute to answer the question.
5. When everyone has given the answer, everyone switches the role and answers the same question, until everyone has stepped into the shoes of each role.
6. In the end, ask participants to reflect on their discussions and to share their final thoughts or conclusions, e.g. whether there were some points on which it was easy to agree on, whether there were cases when the answer was completely different, even within the same role, etc.



Collaborative Brainstorming

Collaborative brainstorming is a way for individuals from various backgrounds to come together to generate new ideas and potential solutions on a specific subject. The more ideas the group comes up with, the better its chances of reaching an appropriate solution. Brainstorming is a great tool to push past obvious solutions to get to innovative ideas. The exercise opens participants up to new ideas, enhances imagination and creativity, and ultimately helps create better results. This method helps everyone feel included, and ideas can grow in a friendly and open space. It's a great way to come up with creative and well-rounded solutions.

Activity

1. Depending on the number of participants you have, divide them into groups of at least two people.
2. Give the groups the same SDGs Cards Box card and give them ten to fifteen minutes to read through the information on the card and to discuss among themselves the potential answer to the question posed in the card.
3. Ask them to write down their answer on a post-it note or to share it via an online tool such as Google Jamboard, Pinup, Miro or any other tool you know.
4. Once every group has produced an answer, ask the participants to organise the ideas, find common themes, and build on each other's solutions, consequently finding the best solution possible. If the answers were provided on post-it notes, ask the participants to go to a wall and work together to do that. If any digital tool was used to provide answers, use a projector to demonstrate the answers and ask them to provide their suggestions orally.
5. Repeat the activity with as many SDGs as necessary.



Scanning and Sharing Insights

Each card in the SDG Intelligence Box contains a QR code. The participants can scan it and obtain more information on the specific SDG – some additional facts, statistics, data, articles on the relevant goal.

Scanning and sharing is a useful activity to bring in fresh ideas and different perspectives, which in turn helps everyone understand the topic better. It also leads to deeper discussions and more informed solutions.

Activity

1. Give each participant a card on one SDG (it can be the same SDG for everyone to deepen the understanding of the same SDG, or different SDGs to cover more information). Ask them to scan the QR code and read through the information given. Encourage them to do additional research on the specific SDG. Give them 30 minutes for this task.
2. When the participants have finalised their research and have summarised their findings, ask them to share their findings with others. This can be done in several ways: presenting their findings orally, making a poster, making an educational video on the topic. The chosen way depends on the availability of time and resources.
3. Encourage feedback, questions, and comments from other participants to spark the discussion and exchange of ideas on the same or different SDGs. For this part of the activity, you can use the activity described in Solution Card “Peer feedback Rounds” to encourage peers to give structured feedback and help refine the ideas the participants came up with in their groups.
4. Finalise the session by conducting a debriefing activity – ask participants what was the most interesting or surprising thing they learned during this session and will it have any impact on their actions in their daily life.



Challenge Mapping

Challenge Mapping helps break down big SDG-related issues into smaller, easier challenges. This approach makes big problems seem less overwhelming and helps everyone figure out where to start and how to make progress. This method also helps to create shared understanding of the challenge, everything related to it, all obstacles and also the greater purpose why problems need to be solved. Once the participants have shared understanding, it is easier to find the best solutions.

Activity

1. First people think on their own, then in small groups and eventually as the whole group.
2. Distribute the SDGs Cards Box cards to the participants. Ask them to read the whole card and the questions at the end. Instruct them to answer these questions keeping in mind the information in the card: Why is this topic important? Why do we need to solve this problem? Clarify the purpose and ask them to write their answers on a post-it note.
3. Then ask participants to answer the following questions: What's stopping us to solve this? Instruct them to write a list of obstacles and choose the most important ones and to write them on post-it notes.
4. Based on the previous stages, ask participants to brainstorm a large quantity of questions that begin "How might we..". What are all the questions that we should look at in order to fulfil our purpose and tackle all the problems? Ask participants to write these questions on post-it notes.
5. When the participants have filled in all the post-it notes, ask each of them to read aloud their answers to the first question and attach the post-it note to the wall. When all the participants have responded, find a common purpose.
6. Repeat the process for the next questions.
7. At the end, you should have a clear purpose, the most important challenges, and possible actions to solve them.



SWOT Analysis for SDGs

A SWOT analysis is a technique used to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Although it is mainly used in business and for specific projects, this technique is particularly useful when speaking about SDGs and their achievement. This technique helps participants look at the SDGs from all sides and to pinpoint strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats which will in turn help come up with more effective and strategic solutions. Working in pairs and groups will ensure that there is exchange of opinions and ideas, collaboration and discussions to determine the most important points to be included in each section of the template.

Activity

1. Divide participants into groups of two to three people.
2. Ask participants to list the strengths and weaknesses of their current approach to an SDG, along with opportunities and threats that might affect their efforts. Afterwards, they have to fill in the template.
3. When the templates are filled in, combine two groups together (four to six people in total) and ask them to compare their SWOT analyses, discuss the similarities and differences and create a new SWOT analysis template where the ideas of both groups are combined.
4. If possible according to the number of groups, repeat the process by combining another two groups (up to 8 people per group max).
5. Each group presents their SWOT analysis to the rest of the group.
6. Ask participants to draw some conclusions on the similarities and differences. Ask them to share how easy or difficult it was to agree with other groups on what the SWOT analysis should include.

Note: Have SWOT A4 templates prepared beforehand.



Mind Mapping

A mind map visualises ideas and concepts, providing a systematic way to capture and organise thoughts. It helps participants understand concepts by breaking them down into parts. It helps teams generate ideas and better understand and organise existing information. This method is also a creative way to connect ideas and find paths to solutions.

Activity

1. Divide participants into groups of two to three people.
2. Give each group the same SDGs Cards Box card and give them some time to read the cards and discuss the contents among themselves.
3. Give each group a Flipchart and ask them to write the main SDG challenge in the centre. After, they have to draw branches that represent different ideas, sub-challenges, or potential solutions.
4. Once the groups have finished their mind maps, ask the groups to present their mind map to the rest of the group. Encourage questions and feedback from the peers.
5. To conclude the activity, work together to see what were the similarities and differences between the mind maps and try to reach a unified conclusion what can be the solution to the question provided in the card. You can use the Peer Feedback Rounds activity for this step.
6. To reflect on the process of making mind maps, ask participants to share their thoughts on the process of generating ideas in groups and how easy or difficult it was to reach an agreement on what to include in the mind map.

This method helps everyone organise their thoughts visually, see connections between ideas, and explore different ways to solve the challenge. It encourages creativity and helps participants see the big picture.



Co-funded by
the European Union

S-7



Future Visioning

This technique helps participants think beyond today's challenges and focus on the positive changes their actions can make. Imagining a successful outcome inspires participants to come up with practical steps to make that vision a reality. The part on visioning the future can be implemented in a creative way by asking participants to make audios, videos or other interactive activities. This will encourage the participation of young people and increase their interest in the activity.

Activity

1. Distribute the same SDGs Cards Box card for each participant.
2. Ask participants to imagine a future where the specific SDG goal has been achieved, to describe what this future looks like, thinking about health, education, the environment, and equality. This can be done in various ways – as an audio story recorded on the phone, as a video recorded on the phone, as a visual poster on a Flipchart, or even a simple presentation. The choice of the method of presentation depends on the time available and the possibilities of participants to use digital tools.
3. Ask participants to present their visions to the group.
4. Divide participants into groups of three people and ask them to brainstorm steps to get to that future and write them on a Flipchart or post-it notes, or, if possible, using an online tool such as Google Jamboard, Pinup, Miro or any other tool you know.
5. Ask small groups to present their steps to the rest of the participants.
6. Once all the groups have presented their steps, encourage a discussion on the steps presented by each group and narrow down five to ten steps each of the participant could take to contribute to the implementation of the specific SDG.



Peer Feedback Rounds

Peer Feedback Rounds is a structured way for groups to present their ideas and get helpful feedback from others. This activity can be used together with other activities where it is necessary to present the findings of the group and to find a common solution.

Sometimes participants are not willing to share their thoughts or ideas because they might feel insecure about what they want to say, therefore it is important to explain why this activity is important.

Activity

1. Explain to the group that feedback is about growth, learning, and improving together—not about criticism or pointing out flaws. Let participants know what the focus of the feedback should be (e.g. skills, performance, communication, ideas). Providing a framework helps make the feedback more actionable and therefore it is easier to speak up. Since the findings will be solutions to the questions posed in SDG cards, one of the ways to provide feedback would be to 1) comment on which solution should be further developed; 2) which solution seems not to cover the problem; 3) and some solutions not mentioned by the group presenting.
2. Ask the group to present their solution and the remaining participants to listen and offer suggestions to improve or refine the idea. While the others offer suggestions, the group presenting their solution takes them into account and makes the relevant changes to their presentation (either online or on a piece of paper).
3. Repeat this process for each group which presents its solution.

This method encourages teamwork and helps participants see their ideas from different perspectives. The feedback makes the solutions stronger and more effective. It also helps build confidence and communication skills, making everyone feel more comfortable sharing their thoughts.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS